

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----125233 061413Z /47

O 061255Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7851
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 0962

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NYERERE CONDEMNS UK POSITION

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0949

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE CALLED UK ACTING HIGH
COMMISSIONER JOHN STRONG AND ME TO STATE HOUSE MORNING
MARCH 6 TO HEAR STINGING CONDEMNATION OF UK'S CURRENT POSITION
ON RHODESIA. NYERERE'S DENUNCIATION WAS INSPIRED BY OWEN
RADIO INTERVIEW LONDON MARCH 5 WHICH NYERERE INTERPRETED AS
BRITISH SUPPORT FOR INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. STRONG MADE BEST
DEFENSE HE COULD AND I URGED CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO
FIND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE APPROACH IN NEW YORK. NYERERE REPEATED
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EMPHATICALLY HE WOULD NOT COOPERATE IN ANY WAY WITH DIRECTION
OWEN'S STATEMENT INDICATED UK POLICY WAS TAKING. AT END OF
MEETING, HE THREW OUT IDEA THAT IF CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE
HELD, UK SHOULD DEFINE POWER SHARING UNDER A-AP, CHECK
ARRANGEMENTS OUT WITH FRONT LINE, AND THEN TAKE IT TO PF WITH
FL SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. NYERERE BEGAN BY SAYING HE HAD STAYED UP LATE LAST NIGHT WRITING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA TELLING HIM OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH STRONG AND ME DURING THE DAY AND INVITING HIM TO JOIN IN TRYING TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. THEN HE HAD HEARD RADIO REPORT ON OWEN INTERVIEW LONDON MARCH 5 IN WHICH OWEN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT (A) HE WOULD NOT GIVE ASSURANCE THAT UK WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE SALISBURY AGREEMENT WITHOUT PF PARTICIPATION, (B) THAT UK WOULD ACCEPT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, IF IT IS SUPPORTED BY THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE; (C) HIS JOB WAS NOW TO BRING PEACE, AND (D) IF THERE WERE NOT EARLY INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, THERE COULD BE FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING.

3. HE THEN CASTIGATED OWEN, SAYING THAT, UNLIKE MUZOREWA, OWEN KNEW EXACTLY THE MEANING OF WHAT HE WAS SAYING. ALL TALK OF SUPPORTING A CONFERENCE WAS NONSENSE. OWEN KNOWS WHAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT IS AND HE IS NOW DEFENDING IT. HE SAYS NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE A-AP. HE IS TRYING FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF SALISBURY. " IF THIS IS WHAT THE LABOR PARTY WANTS, I'LL HAVE NO PART OF IT*"

4. STRONG MADE AS GOOD A DEFENSE AS HE COULD, QUOTING FROM A RECENT TELEGRAM FROM LONDON TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UK STILL SUPPORTS NYERERE'S CONFERENCE IDEA AND THE A-AP, BUT THE PROBLEM WAS IF THE CONFERENCE WERE HELD UNDER A-AP AUSPICES,
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THE SALISBURY PEOPLE WOULDN'T SHOW UP; IF IT WERE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALISBURY ARRANGEMENT, THE PF WOULDN'T PARTICIPATE. TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE CONFERENCE MUST HAVE ALL PARTIES PRESENT. NYERERE SAID THAT THIS "OFFICIAL" UK POSITION JUST CONFIRMED HIS VIEW: AS FAR AS THE UK IS CONCERNED,

THE A-AP IS FINISHED.

5. NYERERE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW HE COULD MAKE HIS POSITION

CLEARER. IN RESPONSE TO MY SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS WHAT WE COULD DO TOGETHER WOULD BETTER BE DECIDED IN NEW YORK THAN ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS ABOUT A RADIO INTERVIEW IN LONDON, NYERERE SAID SIMPLY: "I CANNOT COOPERATE IN GIVING THE UK TIME TO SELL AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE UK WILL RECOGNIZE THIS SETTLEMENT; THE PF WILL FORM A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE; THE WAR WILL BECOME WORSE THAN EVER. "WHY? WHY? WHY?"

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 0962

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5 CORRECTED)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

5. AT THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, NYERE\$E SAID THAT THE ONLY, VERY MUSCH SECONDBEST, WAY OUT HE COULD SEE IF THERE WAS TO BE NO CONFERENCE, WAS TO PARALLEL THE NAMIBIA APPROACH. THE UK SHOULD COMPLETE ITS SPECIFICS FOR POWER-SHARING, I.E., PUT IN FINAL FORM THE A-AP; CISCUSS THEM WITH THE FRONT LINE; IF THEY COULD AGREE THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE REASONABLE, THE UK SHOULD THEN TAKE THEM, WITH FL SUPPORT, TO THE PF. NYERERE GRANTED THAT THERE COULD AND SHOULD BE A PLACE FOR MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE IN SUCH A PLAN. THE UK WAS THE COLONIAL POWER. IT COULD JUST GO AHEAD AND ACT WITHOUT A CONFERENCE. "I WANT TO AVOID A BLOW-UP*", HE SAID. "I WANT TO DELAY MUZOREWA'S FORMING A GOVERNMENT."

7. COMMENT: SESSION AT STATE HOUSE LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR.
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PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE SECRETARY BUTIKU AND FOREIGN OFFICE NOTETAKER AMERICA DESK OFFICER TAFUNA WERE PRESENT. NYERERE WAS IN IRATE MOOD AND DIRECTED ALL OF HIS CRITICISM TO STRONG, TURNING TO ME ONLY OCCASIONALLY TO SAY, "I CAN'T PUT UP WITH

THIS, MR. AMBASSADOR*" NYRERE WAVED OFF MY REMARKS ABOUT
USUN USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH SALIM IN NY YESTERDAY, SAYING
"I WON'T LET SALIM BE PARTY TO WHAT THESE PEOPLE (THE BRITISH)
ARE TRYING TO DO."

8. I JUDGE NYERERE'S ANGER TO BE GENUINE BUT SUSPECT HE ALSO SAW
IT AS USEFUL TACTICAL PLAY TO RAM HOME HIS POSITION TO THE
BRITISH AND TO INSPIRE US TO PUSH THE UK FARTHER IN HIS
DIRECTION. I AM NOT SURE THAT NYERERE'S OUTBURST AGAINST UK
THIS MORNING HAS ANY DECISIVE IMPLICATION FOR WHAT WE ARE TRYING
TO DO IN NEW YORK. NEITHER IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DO
I SEE ANYTHING VERY PROMISING IN HIS IDEA FOR REFINING THE
SPECIFICS OF POZ
SHARING (PARA 5 ABOVE). HOWEVER, SOME KIND
OF REASSURANCES FROM OWEN, OR BETTER, CALLAGHAN, WOULD APPEAR
TO BE WORTH CONSIDERING.
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